



NEWS RELEASE

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PARKS SUPERINTENDENT NAMES TWO PARKS IN LAKE CITY AND CAPITOL HILL

Seattle Parks and Recreation Superintendent Tim Gallagher has named new parks in the Capitol Hill and Lake City neighborhoods Seven Hills Park and Virgil Flaim Park, respectively.

Seven Hills Park

Parks acquired the Capitol Hill site at the northeast corner of E Howell St. and 16th Ave. E in 2007 with funding from the 2000 Pro Parks Levy and King County Conservation Futures tax revenues. The approved plan consists of an open lawn in the middle bordered by a collective garden to the north and a crushed rock plaza and a pathway lined with trees to the south. Other elements include a garden walk, steps, a plaza and benches, barbeque, a picnic table, and an art element.

The art element, "Seven Hills of Seattle," designed by Mithun Landscape Architects, includes a grouping of seven boulders for creative play and seating that represent the seven hills of Seattle, called out in an early effort by early 20th century civic boosters to liken Seattle to Rome. (The hills are First Hill, Second Hill [Central Area ridge], Denny Hill [now the Denny Regrade and Belltown], Capitol Hill, Yesler or Profanity Hill [actually part of First Hill], Beacon Hill, and Queen Anne Hill. Some accounts include Magnolia Bluff, Sunset Hill, Duwamish Head, and West Seattle Hill.

Parks received more than 50 suggestions for a name for this park, and the Naming Committee settled on Seven Hills Park, suggested by first grade students at nearby St. Joseph's school after the artwork in the park that represents Seattle's seven hills.

Construction on the site, also funded by the Pro Parks Levy, is scheduled to be completed by spring 2010.

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Virgil Flaim Park

Parks acquired this Lake City site, located at 12312 - 26th Ave. NE, from Seattle Public Schools in 1987 after Lake City Elementary School, for which it served as the playground, was surplused. Citizens and groups submitted nine suggestions for the park's name, and the Naming Committee agreed on the name "Virgil Flaim Park" after the long time Lake City resident and active Lions Club member.

Flaim's personal initiative led to many improvements to the Lake City community, including this park. He was executive director of the Lake City Community Center from 1986 until his retirement in 2001, and the proposal to name the park after him received support from the Lake City Lions Club, Lake City Community Center, Lake City Western Vigilantes, Lake City Western Vigilantes Sidekicks, and the Lake City Chamber of Commerce.

The Park Naming Committee is comprised of one representative of the Board of Park Commissioners, one representative of the Seattle City Councilmember who chairs the committee dealing with parks issues, and one representative of the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation. For more information about the park naming process, please contact Paula Hoff, Seattle Parks and Recreation, at 206-615-0368 or paula.hoff@seattle.gov.

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